



Embassy of the United States of America
Baghdad, Iraq

October 20, 2005

Dear Senator Nelson:

I have received your letter concerning the ongoing search for Navy pilot Captain Michael Scott Speicher, and I can assure you that finding him remains a top priority for this Mission and for our colleagues in the Multi-National Force-Iraq.

The search for Captain Speicher is an ongoing military operation. In addition to a number of site exploitations, every high-value detainee apprehended since 2003 who would have been in a position to know anything about the fate of Captain Speicher has been asked about him during initial interrogations. Follow-up interrogations and interviews were conducted based on individual responses or on information ascertained later that a detainee might know more than previously disclosed.

The military's Rescue Coordination Center and the U.S. Embassy's Hostage Working Group continue to act aggressively on any intelligence leads they receive regarding Captain Speicher. As recently as September 19, a possible grave site near the headquarters of the Ministry of Interior's Major Crime Unit in downtown Baghdad was excavated following a tip from an Iraqi that a person had been buried in the prison yard. Unfortunately, despite digging in several locations at the specified site, no remains were found.

Members of my Mission and I personally will continue to stress to appropriate Iraqi officials our ongoing concern about Captain Speicher's case and urge them to report immediately to us any information they may discover concerning his possible whereabouts.

Sincerely,

David M. Satterfield
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

The Honorable
Bill Nelson,
United States Senate.